

MHawaii MARINE

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THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD WINNING METRO FORMAT NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 17, 2006



Cadets
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Museum
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Raiders
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In every clime and place



Cpl. Luke Blom

A U.S. Marine with the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment stands behind the American and Marine Corps flags during a ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 231st birthday at the Haditha Dam in Iraq's Al Anbar province, Nov. 10. For Marines around the world, Nov. 10 is a time to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday, regardless of where they are stationed. While most Marines in the U.S. attend a formal ball or ceremony, the "Island Warriors" celebrated the milestone without the glitz of a formal ball, focusing on Marine traditions passed down through the ranks. During the ceremony at the Haditha Dam, Marines upheld the basic traditions of the ceremony – the reading of 13th Marine Corps Commandant Gen. John A. Lejeune's birthday message, the reading of the current commandant's birthday message, and conducting a cake-cutting ceremony. During the cake-cutting, the oldest Marine present takes the first piece of cake and passes it to the youngest Marine present, representing the passing of traditions from one generation to the next. Marines from 2/3, who arrived in Iraq in September, are providing security and training Iraqi security forces in the Haditha "Triad" region, which boasts a population of about 80,000 and consists of three Euphrates River towns — Haditha, Barwanah and Haqlaniyah. See story on page A-5.

Conway appointed 34th commandant

Cpl. Aaron K. Clark
Marine Barracks 8th & I

WASHINGTON – General James T. Conway became the 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Monday, after assuming command from Gen. Michael W. Hagee during a passage of command ceremony.

Hagee's retirement ceremony took place earlier Monday morning, ending 42 years of distinguished military service.

"Throughout all the postings and assignments I have had, the one thing I am most proud of is that since 1968 I have been called a U.S. Marine," said Hagee.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld was present for the retirement and the passage of command ceremony.

"(Hagee) left behind a Marine Corps that under his watch has become the best-trained, the best-led, and the best-equipped force in history," Rumsfeld said. He also noted Hagee has led the

Marine Corps during some of the organization's most challenging times, citing the Marines' hard fighting in Fallujah, Ramadi and other parts of western Iraq.

"Heroes are not in short supply," Rumsfeld said of today's Marines. "We can say with pride that many of this nation's greatest young people are those who proudly wear the eagle, the globe and the anchor."

Conway, a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1970, where he held a variety of platoon and company commander billets. As a field grade officer, he taught tactics at The Basic School, served as operations officer for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to include contingency operations off Beirut, Lebanon, commanded Battalion Landing Team 3/2 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and served as commanding officer of TBS.

As a general officer, Conway has served as the commander of the First Marine Expeditionary Force during two combat tours in Iraq, the president of the Marine Corps University at Quantico, Va., and the Director of Operations, J-3, on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, where he served prior to becoming Commandant of the Marine Corps.

"The raw courage, the selflessness, the teamwork demonstrated by this young generation is absolutely unbelievable," said Conway. "I would suggest that our services, our Corps and our nation are in great shape for a long time to come."

Conway takes the helm as Marines continue to engage enemies on the frontlines of the Global War on Terrorism.

"This is going to take awhile," he said of ongoing operations in Iraq. "With your support there is only one outcome, and that is victory."



Cpl. Earnest J. Barnes

General Michael W. Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, passes on the official battle colors to Gen. James T. Conway, 34th Commandant of the Marine Corps, during a change of command ceremony for Commandant of the Marine Corps at Marine Barracks Washington D.C.

First Long War Marine to receive Medal of Honor

Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn
Headquarters Marine Corps

QUANTICO, VA – A corporal who died shielding men in his care from a bursting grenade deserves America's highest military decoration, President Bush has confirmed. Actions by Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who would have turned 25 Nov. 10, merit the Medal of Honor, Bush said at the National Museum of the Marine Corps' dedication ceremony, which coincided with the 231st Marine Corps anniversary.

"And on this special birthday, in the company of his fellow Marines, I'm proud to announce that our nation will recognize Cpl. Jason Dunham's action with America's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor," Bush said in front of approximately 15,000 people.

The announcement prompted a booming "Ooh-rah!" – a spirited cry among Marines – from the back of the crowd and a long applause followed.

Near the Syrian border n Iraq April 14, 2004, the corporal used his helmet and

See MEDAL OF HONOR, A-7



Staff Sgt. Scott Dunn

A photograph of Corporal Jason L. Dunham draped with keepsakes and displayed in the livingroom of his parent's home is encased in a wooden, six-foot tall cabinet.

Marines train Iraqi soldiers for success



Cpl. Luke Blom

Iraqi soldiers and U.S. Marines conduct a foot patrol in Haditha, Iraq. According to Marine officials, Iraqi soldiers are taking substantial steps toward eventually taking control of military operations and ultimately relieving Coalition Forces in the western Al Anbar province.

Cpl. Luke Blom
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

HADITHA, Iraq – The soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division are taking substantial steps toward eventually taking control of military operations and ultimately relieving Coalition Forces in western Al Anbar province, according to Marine officials.

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion have spent more than a year learning the tactical, administrative, logistic and decision-making processes they will need to function as an independent military unit in the Haditha Triad region, which boasts a population of about 50,000.

In order to ensure soldiers have a safety net to fall back onto when they encounter a difficult situation or have answers to questions concerning their mission, the Military Transition Team of the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment is there to provide answers and support.

See TRAIN, A-4

NEWS BRIEFS

Child Safety Seats

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Base Safety is sponsoring a free child safety seat inspection Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot of the Marine Corps Exchange aboard the base at Kaneohe Bay. Inspection will include tips on how to correctly install child restraint systems.

Pride Day on Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Marines, Sailors, Civilian Marines and family members are encouraged to participate in “Pride Day” Nov. 30. This event is designed to get all hands to work together in a cooperative effort to beautify our base and make Marine Corps Base Hawaii cleanup a priority task for this day. Call Gunnery Sgt. Harvey, Base Inspector chief at 257-7717 for more information.

Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay's Christmas tree lighting will be held Dec. 3 (time to be determined) at Dewey Square. This year, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band will conduct a full-blown, one-hour concert in the Base Theater, across the street from the Christmas tree, prior to the tree lighting ceremony. At the end of the band concert, the drum section would lead the audience out to Dewey Square. There will also be a section of the band playing music at the tree before and during caroling.

Motorcycle Instructor Needed

The Base Safety Center is looking for qualified motorcyclists who have a sincere desire to assist in teaching the Basic Rider's and Experienced Rider's courses aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Contact Mario Diprete at 257-1830 for details.

Tax Center

The Base Tax Center will operate year-round from the Legal Services Center, Building 215. To setup an appointment to have your taxes prepared, call the Legal Assistance Office at 257-2110, ext. 236. The Tax Center will also do taxes on a walk-in basis.

TRICARE enrollment

MARADMIN 326/06 mandates that all active duty Marines be enrolled in TRICARE Prime. A roster identifying Marines who are not enrolled can be found by visiting www.usmc.mil and following the links to Career - Manpower and Reserve Affairs - Active Marine - Personal and Family Readiness Division (MR) - Military Personnel Services - TRICARE.

Conserve Energy

Turn off all lights and electrical devices/items in the rooms or office if not occupied. Every little bit you do shows a great impact for all.

United Through Reading

USO of Hawaii is offering deploying service members the opportunity to record themselves reading a children's book and have the finished product shown to his or her child(ren) while he or she is on deployment. Taping sessions are offered today, Saturday and again Nov. 29. To sign up for a half-hour session and for more information about the project, e-mail: uso-hawaii@uso.org or call 836-3351.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

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Myth busting safety: Fact and fiction on driving safety from the science sector

Alfred Rice
Pentagon

In the field of safety, there are a number of accepted facts that are incontrovertible: Seat belts save lives, driving under the influence kills, and driving while fatigued predisposes you to traffic accidents. These are just a few examples of accepted and scientifically proven facts. Scientific studies are conducted, a peer review takes place, and results are published, soon after the general population accepts scientific facts. There are also assumed notions we have on safety that seem to make common sense, but we are often uncertain whether they are based on fact or intuition. For example, there is a perception among some that war fighters re-deploying from operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom are more predisposed to motor-vehicle mishaps when they return from deployment. The money a soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine saved during deployment is spent on a new motorcycle or car, which is then used to recapture the adrenaline rush upon return to home station. Are combat veterans more predisposed to accidents? When a war fighter returns from deployment and the command leadership requires him to complete a vehicle safety inspection, is this private motor vehicle safety inspection effective at reducing mishaps? These questions routinely arise because we often establish safety policy or programs but are sometimes uncertain whether the policy or program is based on established scientific evidence.

The following are some examples of the many myths and intuitions that often plague us. The purpose of this article is to present established scientific basis for what might be intuitive knowledge and/or dispel myths regarding certain safety concepts and ideas. I have focused mostly on privately owned motor vehicles since this area of safety has proved to be the greatest challenge of preventing mishaps in all the military services. The results of this research are from an international community of scientists and experts in the field of safety research, and all have been completed and published within the last 18 months. In the interest of brevity, only the name of the study and author has been listed. The detailed particulars such as the name and date of publication, institution of research, coauthors, etc., have been omitted, but are available upon request from the author.

- 1) Are privately owned motor vehicle safety inspections effective in reducing motor vehicle mishaps? A study titled Effects on Accident of Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspection in Norway by Peter Christensen et al. was conducted to evaluate the effects on accidents of periodic inspections of cars. Technical defects prior to inspection were, in fact, found to be associated with an increased accident rate. The study found that although there was no effect of inspections on accident rates, inspections were found to strongly reduce the number of technical defects in cars. There seemed to be an

inconsistency with the fact that technical defects appear to increase the accident rate; one would expect the repair of such defects to reduce the accident rate. It is suggested that car owners adapt their driving behavior to the technical condition of the car. The effect attributed to technical defects before inspection may be, in part, the result of a tendency for owners who are less concerned about safety to also neglect the technical condition of their cars. These car owners might have had a higher accident rate than other car owners, irrespective of the technical condition of the car. The apparent conclusion of the study is that drivers who drive cars with technical defects are associated with increased accident rates, because they are less concerned about driving safety. Bottom line: Vehicle inspections are a good practice. Although the inspection in and of itself does not reduce mishaps, through POV inspections, leaders who identify personnel who drive vehicles with technical defects may also be identifying the same individuals who are high-risk drivers.

- 2) Are service members who re-deploy from OIF/OEF at a greater risk of fatal motor vehicle crashes? Two studies have looked into this issue, but not specifically on OEF/OIF. They were based on Gulf War veterans. We can assume that the study of Gulf War vets has the same significance and impact on OIF/OEF vets. Understanding the effect of deployment on the risk of fatal motor vehicle crashes, by Dr. T.I. Hooper et al., along with an earlier study conducted by Kang and Bullman, have researched this issue in great detail. The earlier study by Kang and Bullman indicated a 31 percent increase and the later study by Hooper shows a 45 percent increase in the odds of a fatal crash for redeploying personnel when compared to the average rate. This phenomenon is evident in the first three years of redeployment and declines to no effect after seven years. Possible explanations include: Increased levels of risk-taking behavior, an altered perception of risk, and post-deployment traumatic stress disorders. Other significant predictors of increased risk include: Age (younger than 26), marital status (single), education (high school or less), and rank (lower ranked enlisted personnel). Leaders should continue to target their post-deployment de-compression training to affect these high-risk groups.
- 3) Does the safety climate of an organization influence injury occurrence? An organization's safety climate is a snapshot of the prevailing sense of safety among its personnel at a specific period of time. The presence or absence of a positive safety climate of an organization is often cited as a predictor of injury occurrence. The study safety climate and self-reported injury: Assessing the mediating role of employee safety control by Yeung-Hsiang Huang et al. analyzed this issue. Evidence shows that management commitment to safety, return-to-work policies, post-injury administration, and safety training are

important dimensions of an organization's safety climate. It has also been shown that a positive safety climate is a critical factor in predicting the history of personnel self-reporting their injuries. When leaders encourage the self-reporting of mishaps and injuries, this improves the safety climate, thereby further improving organizational safety performance.

- 4) Are drivers with vehicle mishaps more prone to future mishaps? The quick answer is yes. The study, Crash Involvement of Drivers with Multiple Crashes by S. Chandraratna et al., that used data from the state of Kentucky showed that a significant number of drivers are repeatedly involved in crashes. Key predictors of crashes were: At-fault drivers, previous driver license suspensions, very young and very old drivers, male drivers, drivers with both speeding and non-speeding citations, and drivers with recent crash involvement.
- 5) Are personnel with high-risk behavior more prone to injury and what are some characteristics behind high-risk behavior?

A study by G.E. Ryb, Risk perception and impulsivity: Association with risky behaviors and substance-abuse disorders researched this issue with interesting results that confirm an association between high-risk behavior and injury. High-risk behavior tends to stem from highly impulsive individuals with a low perception of risk in their activities. High-risk behaviors are exhibited by infrequent seat belt use, drinking and driving, riding with a drunk driver, binge drinking, and speeding for the thrill. In conjunction with substance abuse, individuals with high-risk behaviors are significantly associated with the occurrence of blunt trauma in-patient populations. A similar study, Individual Difference Factors in Risky Driving: The Roles of Anger/Hostility, Conscientiousness and Sensation-Seeking by D.C. Schwebel et al., also supports similar concepts on risky behavior. This study clearly indicates that the combined roles of anger/hostility, conscientiousness (the lack of) and sensation seeking emerge as the best predictor of driving violations and risky driving behaviors. Another study, Risky Driving Habits and Motor Vehicle Driver Injury by S. Blows et al., concludes that speeding for thrills, driving 20 mph over the speed limit and drivers with a traffic conviction within 12 months were two to four times more likely to have been injured over the same time period. Driving unlicensed was a risk factor mainly for older drivers than younger drivers, while speeding posed a stronger risk factor for younger drivers rather than older drivers. These studies somewhat dovetail the concept that high-risk drivers tend to be characterized by impulsive sensation-seekers, with a low perception that their behavior exposes them to great risk motor vehicle crashes.

- 6) Is risk-taking behavior all the same? Types of risk-taking behavior tend to be different and are based on motivations and attitudes toward risk. In C. Musselwhite's study, Attitudes Toward Vehicle Driving Behavior: Categorizing and Contextualizing Risk, he concluded that risks are based on motivations. Drivers who took risks unintentionally form the largest group. Three groups who took deliberate risk were: a) Reactive risk takers who took risks when reacting to stress or being in a hurry, b) Calculated risk-takers who took risks when they thought it was safe to do so, and c) Continuous risk-takers took risks for their own sake.
- 7) Cell phones while driving. Am I safer using a hands-free device? The study titled Mobile Phone Use/Effects of Handheld and Hands-Free Phones on Driving Performance by J.E.B. Tornros used simulated driving in both rural and urban scenarios. This study found that during phone-dialing experiments, both types of phones impaired driving performance. In the conversation experiments, the driving performance was rated better for hands-free than for the handheld mode. A separate study conducted by K.E. Beede, Engrossed in Conversation: The Impact of Cell Phones on Simulated Driving Performance, found that in the categories of traffic violations, maintaining lane position, attention lapses, and

See MYTH, A-7

Celebrations near, far



Cpl. Luke Blom

Marines with the Hawaii-based 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment escort a Marine Corps birthday cake during a ceremony honoring the Marine Corps' 231st birthday at the Haditha Dam in Iraq's Al Anbar province, Nov. 10.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. High 81F. Winds North East at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40 percent. Rainfall around a quarter of an inch.

Precipitation: 40%

High — 81

Low — 78

Saturday



Day — Cloudy with a few showers. Low 76F. Winds East at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.

Precipitation: 30%

High — 82

Low — 76

Sunday



Day — Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 82F. Winds South East at 5 to 10 mph

Precipitation: 10%

High — 82

Low — 72

Naval Sea Cadets enhance their navigation, leadership skills at Bellows

Story and Photos by **Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree**
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLWS, WAIMANALO, Hawaii – United States Naval Sea Cadets conducted land navigation training with Marines as their annual advance training program Saturday and Sunday.

Approximately 24 cadets met at 7 a.m. outside the gate to Marine Corps Training Area Bellows Saturday to check their gear one last time before going on a patrol to secure a building where they set up a base camp.

“Our first mission was to get to the (command post),” said Jeremy Troughton, a 14-year-old squad leader. “Alpha Team went in to the post while Bravo and Charlie Team provided security around the perimeter.”

After establishing a command area, the cadets then went on patrol to locate enemy forces and practice land navigation skills.

On patrol, the cadets located hostile forces and called in for artillery support. According to the cadets, they learned how important communication is within the division.

“There was a little bit of confusion sometimes,” said Troughton. “We had problems with our radios and sometimes forgot to relay messages to the cadets in the back, but, other than that, it was a fun experience.”

One mission the cadets said they did not want to fail was finding boxes of Meals Ready to Eat by using coordinates given to them.

“We wanted to give them a real taste of what it is like to be in the field and what the service members have to go through in order to protect our country every day,” said Ernest Ing, commanding officer, Battleship Missouri Division, USNSCC. “We had to fill their advance training schedule, which they do every year, and this idea came up.

“We were lucky to get this facility, because it’s so close to home. A lot of other divisions go to the mainland to do their training, but not everyone can go there.”

As night started to settle in at the close of their first day of the 29-hour exercise, the cadets started to chow down on their MREs.

“It may not be that much fun right now, but I will be able to look back and think that this was a great experience for me,” said Troughton. “I would definitely do this again.”



Sergeant Clinton Schwarz demonstrates how to properly apply face paint on Squad Leader Jeremy Troughton before going on a patrol at Bellows.



Timothy Brewster, 14, aims his weapon while on patrol during land navigation training. Approximately 24 cadets from the Battleship Missouri Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps participated in a 29-hour exercise to enhance their land navigation and leadership skills.



Squad Leader Jeremy Troughton, 14, calls in for a situation report from all his teams Saturday at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Naval Sea Cadet Jeb Wheeler drags team leader Virgilio Rosario to safety after Rosario became a casualty while on patrol during a training exercise Saturday at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows in Waimanalo, Hawaii.



Squad Leader Jeremy Troughton (with map) discusses a plan of action with his team leaders after spotting what could be hostile enemy forces during a training exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

Base recognizes Energy Awareness Month

John Dunbar

Resource Efficiency Manager

You may have noticed the Energy Awareness banners up around the Base for Energy Awareness Month. Each year in the October-November timeframe, we make a special effort to observe and promote energy awareness and conservation. This year, the national theme is “Energy Independence Depends on US – Choose Wisely, Use Wisely,” which compels us to consider how energy choices impact our national energy security situation. This message continues and reinforces the national energy policy, wherein the president directs federal agencies to conserve energy use “to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities” and reminds all of us that each and every individual must conserve. All federal employees, military members and dependents are encouraged to adopt wise energy-efficiency practices that help control our energy destiny and move us toward energy independence and energy security.

For fiscal year 2006, Marine Corps Base Hawaii spent about \$9.2 million of its operating budget for utility costs. This included \$8.8 million for electricity and \$400,000 for

water. In addition, slightly less than \$8 million of family-housing funds were used to pay for utilities in family housing. Because the price of oil continues to escalate, our costs for electricity, utility conservation becomes increasingly important. Just a two percent savings in consumption could save more than \$300,000 per year, which can be redirected toward supporting operational needs, jobs, and new equipment. Despite increasing electrical rates, MCB Hawaii conservation efforts last year saved more than 1.1 million kilowatt hours or nearly \$200,000.

Give some thought to what you can do to help save energy aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii and at home. Wise energy choices include using fans and natural ventilation instead of air conditioning, buying energy efficient EnergyStar™ rated appliances and home electronics equipment, watering lawns only when necessary – not during the heat of the day – turning off lights when not needed, and using energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs. If you see energy waste, eliminate it or report it to your Command Utility Conservation Monitor, Building Energy Monitor or the Facilities Energy Branch at 257-2171 ext 251.

Guidelines for 2007 Scholarships for Military Children Program announced

Press Release

Defense Commissary Agency

The “Scholarships for Military Children Program” was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community. It is the intent of the program that a Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Foundation Scholars scholarship, funded through outside contributions, be awarded annually for each commissary operated by the Defense Commissary Agency. The Fisher House Foundation continues to serve as the program administrator and will contract again this year with Scholarship Managers, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, to evaluate the program’s applications. Since the inception of the program in 2000, more than \$4.6 million in scholarships have been awarded to 2,967 military dependents

from more than 35,000 applicants.

The following program guidelines and application procedures are provided:

Scholarship awards will be based on funds available, but officials anticipate individual awards of at least \$1,500. If there are no eligible applicants from a particular commissary, the funds designated for that commissary will be awarded as an additional scholarship at another installation.

Only children of active duty, reservists and National Guard, or retired military personnel may apply for a scholarship under this program. Scholarship managers will determine eligibility. It is not the responsibility of store personnel to monitor eligibility. Scholarship managers will screen the completed applications, not DeCA or Fisher House. Students who have questions regarding the application should contact Scholarship Managers direct-

ly at (856) 616-9311 or by e-mail at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

Applications are available as a Word document or PDF file at www.militaryscholar.org. Also available is the 2007 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document, which should be provided to applicants when they pick up their application. Completed applications may be returned to the commissary customer service and cashier’s office between Nov. 1 and Feb. 21, 2007, in person or by mail. Applications may not be faxed or e-mailed to the store.

Completed applications must be in the store by close of business Feb. 21, 2007. A Feb. 21 or earlier postmark on those applications mailed to the store is not acceptable if received after Feb. 21, 2007.

Results will be posted on the scholarship Web site at www.militaryscholar.org on or about May 15, 2007.

TRAIN, from A-1

One goal of Coalition Forces is to get Iraqi Security Forces to a level of performance where the forces can continue to take more of a back-seat role in providing security to the region, according to 2nd Lt. Marco Le Gette, MTT advisor to the Iraqi Army battalion.

The best way to do that is assist Iraq’s government in developing a competent and self-sustaining Army full of trustworthy and well-trained soldiers, said Le Gette.

That is where the MTT comes in.

“We’re here to basically give the Iraqis all the tools they need to successfully take over operations,” said Le Gette, a 24-year-old native of Severna Park, Md.

Proper patrol techniques, communication, decision-making, logistics and leadership are the primary tools that the MTT advisors are equipping the soldiers with, he said.

While it is common knowledge that the Iraqi Army is being trained to eventually take over operations from Coalition Forces in Iraq, many civilians and service members said they don’t know how it is being done, said Staff Sgt. Daniel Valle, MTT advisor on Le Gette’s team.

The progress of the Iraqi Army soldier is very similar to that of a new Marine, he said. There are successes and failures in the learning curve, but, in the end, the experience and knowledge accumulated over time eventually matures into a competent fighting force, said Le Gette.

“Sometimes the (Iraqi soldier) fails and comes back, and we tell him what to fix and how to do it. Ultimately he is gaining knowledge and experience, and some day he will come back successful,” said Le Gette.

In a recent news brief on the progress of the Iraqi Army, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld spoke about the positive effects the training has made on the soldiers.

“The result today is a security force of more than 310,000 trained and equipped Iraqis bearing the brunt of the battle for their country and increasingly taking over chunks of their territory,” said Rumsfeld.

The MTT advisors use an Arabic term to describe their relationship with the soldiers, “kafik” (pronounced kay-fick), meaning in the lead. The training MTT is providing the Jundiis (the Arabic word for an enlisted soldier, pronounced June-dees) ensures the soldiers will continue to be more kafik with time and effort.

“The Jundiis have proven that they are proficient in their tactics on patrol, so what we’re focusing on is showing them how to be an effective battalion,” said Le Gette.

While the soldiers’ performance on patrol is up to par, according to the group of U.S. advisors, the Marines still see room for improvement in logistics, air support, MedEvac, and at their Command Operation Center.

“These are the things that we as advisors are focusing on with the Iraqi battalion staff,” said Le Gette, who has daily meetings with

Iraqi battalion staff members.

The transition team in Haditha is also focusing on developing a strong core of non-commissioned officers and staff noncommissioned officers, who currently play a small role in operations, according to one Iraqi soldier with 15 months of service in the army.

Unlike the Marine Corps’ NCOs and SNCOs who have been trained as leaders since the beginning of their careers, Iraqi NCOs and SNCOs are seldom put in leadership roles.

That is something the Marines said they hope to change.

“We are noticing that we don’t have the small-unit leadership that Marines have. We are trying to build our NCOs and SNCOs up to the point where they feel confident to lead,” said the Iraqi soldier, known as “Moody.”

Still, for the most part, the Iraqi soldiers who operate daily and with their U.S. counterparts here are well on their way to becoming an independent force, said Valle.

“We’re starting to see some of the end results of the training we’re giving the Jundiis,” said Valle, a 33-year-old native of San Antonio. “All their tactics are on point; we’re just helping them fine-tune the little things.”

Training and operating together on a daily basis has spawned a unique trust and bond between the Marines and soldiers, said Moody. Although there is a language barrier and distinct cultural differences, the Marines and soldiers see each other as equals, and friends in many cases.

“The bond we’ve built with these guys is great. It makes us work that much harder to train them well,” said Valle.

According to Iraqi soldiers and U.S. advisors, soldiers are determined to keep the ball rolling in a positive direction.

With continued training, Le Gette is confident that 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division will be completely self-sustaining within a year.

While Marines said they are confident the soldiers are getting closer to operating independently, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq said Iraqi soldiers throughout the country are quickly progressing.

Out of 112 Iraqi Army battalions, 90 have taken the lead in military operations in their areas, according to Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander for Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

In a recent a Department of Defense news briefing, Casey told reporters that Iraqi Security Forces are in the third and final phase of development.

“The third step is you make them independent, and that’s what you’ll see going on here over the better part of the next 12 months,” said Casey. “We’ve said all along that we wanted to give the Iraqis the capability to conduct independent counterinsurgency operations, and that is the program that we are currently on.”

“The Jundiis are up front doing it all, we’re just kind of in the rear for help,” said Le Gette. “These guys are very eager to be part of Iraq’s future.”

Veterans are honored at governor’s ceremony

Sgt. Sara A. Carter
Combat Correspondent

KANEOHE, Hawaii – More than 100 veterans, families and friends spoke amongst themselves as they waited for the start of the Governor’s 2006 Veterans Day Ceremony Saturday at the Memorial Plaza of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe.

“The best vets in America are the vets from here,” retired Army Col. Edward R. Cruickshank, director, State Office of Veteran Services said during the opening remarks of the ceremony.

Various veteran organizations carried their organizational colors and lei for their fallen comrades to the front of the memorial. During the opening of the ceremony, the national anthem and Hawaii Pono’i (Hawaii’s state song and the Kingdom of Hawaii’s national anthem from 1876 to 1893) was performed by the Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club.

The ceremony provided an opportunity for reflection on how veterans of the past shaped the nation and military to what it is today and how current veterans are presently shaping the United States’ future, said retired Admiral Ronald J. Hayes, master of ceremonies.

Next, retired Army Col. Peter Lee, chaplain, Joint Forces Headquarters Hawaii, began to give the invocation.

“It is the veteran, not the politician, who gives us the right to vote. It’s the veteran, not the reporter, who gives us the freedom of the

press. It’s the veteran, not the lawyer, who gives us the right to a free trial,” he said.

As Lee spoke, many of the veterans in the crowd nodded their heads in agreement.

The glee club returned to the front of the crowd to perform. As they began singing “God Bless America,” the crowd joined in.

Every speaker at the ceremony stressed the importance of thanking the veterans’ families.

“We take every opportunity we have to not only thank the vets but their families too,” Gov. Linda Lingle said during her Veterans Day address.

She and Army Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee, adjutant general, State of Hawaii, then placed a wreath at the memorial, which was followed by a rifle salute, taps, and a flyover.

Throughout the ceremony, one veteran sat holding a picture of President George W. Bush tightly in his hand.

“This picture was sent to me by the White House,” retired Gunnery Sgt. Robert Hashida said. “I support President Bush. He is the number-one president.”

The Vietnam veteran said he served Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and was handpicked to work with the presidential helicopters.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, the audience dispersed. Some went to their cars while others walked to the memorial wall to place flowers next to their loved one’s plaque.



Veterans wave as a flyover is performed by “B” Company 1/175st Aviation, Hawaii Army National Guard, during the governor’s 2006 Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Kaneohe.

Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Travel experts explain new system to DoD employees

Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – To help Defense Department employees better understand the new system that handles their official travel requirements, experts from the Defense Travel Management Office are deployed to the Pentagon armed with information and ready to answer questions.

A booth staffed with experts who explained the Defense Travel System, which is now required for use by DoD employees on official travel, was set up in the Pentagon concourse. Experts were on hand to explain the

computer-based system and give employees a demonstration on its use.

“Given the population of the Pentagon, this is just a great opportunity to reach out to folks who are currently using DTS, as well as those who are not using it yet, but know that it’s coming,” said Pam Mitchell, deputy director of the Defense Travel Management Office. “So it gives us the ability to provide a lot of information and to really touch a lot of people in a short period of time.”

DTS began as a pilot program in June 2001 and is now deployed to more than 8,700 sites worldwide. As

of Nov. 1, more than one million people were registered for DTS and about 13,000 users log into the system every day, Mitchell said.

The most important benefit DTS gives government travelers is a consolidated place to meet all their travel needs. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and allows users to create a travel order or to get reimbursed for travel.

“It’s an integrated system,” she said. “It’s not just about getting paid; it’s not just about making a reservation. It’s really about allowing a traveler to do everything.”

Some users have experienced

snags and problems with DTS, Mitchell acknowledged, but she urged patience as the system is improved and fine-tuned.

The Defense Travel Management Office is working on improvements and seeking feedback from users on training that would be useful, she said.

Travelers who do experience problems with DTS have several options available to them, Mitchell said.

Every site where DTS has been fielded has a defense travel administrator who can provide training, and the services and agencies have their own help desks set up. People can

also look online for help and request training classes.

DTS benefits not only the individual travelers, but also DoD organizations by establishing a way to track the travel budget, Mitchell said. Leaders can track where and when money was spent and can more easily enforce travel rules and regulations.

According to Mitchell, the Defense Travel Management Office was created in February to consolidate, streamline, and centrally manage all commercial travel for DoD. DTS is only part of what the office does.

High-tech system enhances Internet e-mail security

Pfc. Ethan Hoaldridge
U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii – With the threat of network security breaches always looming, Navy and Marine Corps Intranet users will soon be required to digitally sign all e-mails containing official DoD business and encrypt all e-mail messages that include unclassified, sensitive information.

These security measures are designed to help protect sensitive information like Social Security numbers, medical information and force readiness data, according to Leslie Ann Kainoa, a U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, public key infrastructure support representative.

Digital signatures ensure the authenticity of the recipient of the message and ensure the sender approves the mes-

sage. Encryption keeps hackers or unintended recipients from being able to read the message. It also jumbles the e-mail, if someone tries to forward the message outside of the intranet's firewall.

“It's like locking the front door to your house,” said Kainoa. “You do not have to, but eventually someone will attempt to break in and steal your possessions from your home.”

The requirement to use digital signatures and encryption was already in place, but in light of recent events, DoD officials are emphasizing its importance.

“There is constant e-mail traffic containing sensitive information that, if in the wrong hands, could do harm to our service members,” she added.

Using digital signatures attaches a unique identifier to your e-mail, and the encryp-

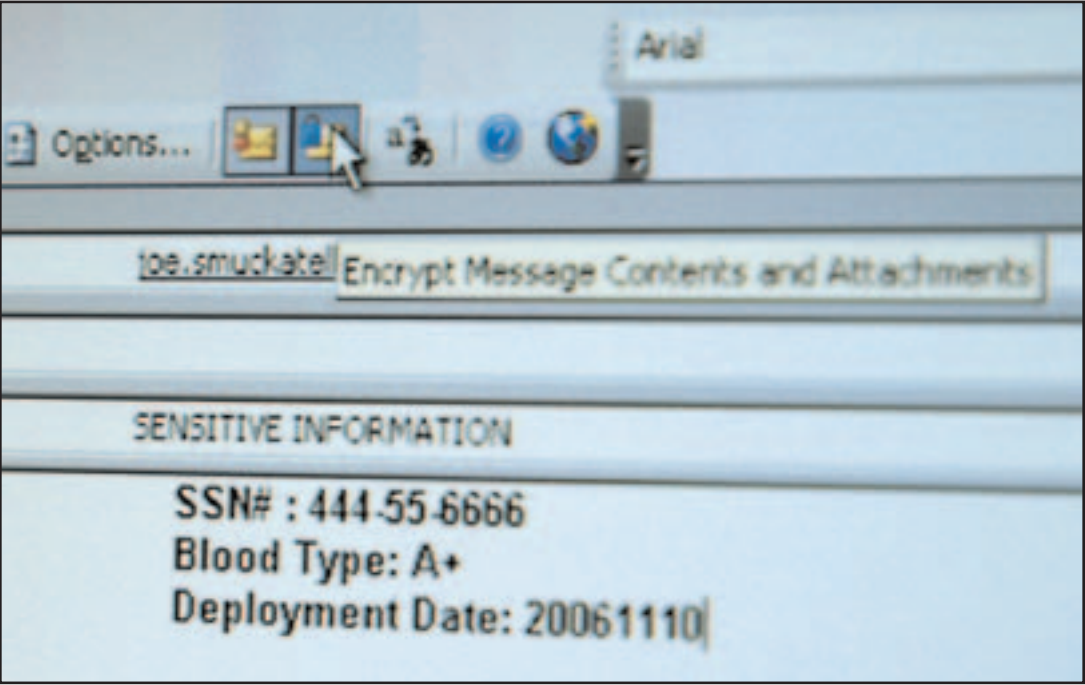
tion process protects the message by scrambling the information to prevent hackers from intercepting sensitive information.

Attaching a signature to e-mails or encrypting them enlarges the file size of messages, but it adds another layer of protection to sensitive information.

Public key infrastructure support representatives at Marine Corps bases and stations can offer instruction to section representatives on how to apply the signatures and send encrypted messages.

“Things like remembering to take your (common access card) out of the computer when leaving your work station, and using the extra security measures that are there can make all the difference,” said Kainoa.

Marine Corps Forces, Pacific personnel can contact PKI support at 477 – 8814.



Pfc. Ethan Hoaldridge

A click on an option tool can ensure e-mail security when using the new DoD high-tech internet e-mail security system, public key infrastructure. The new system is designed to protect sensitive information.

Improved Camp H.M. Smith is underway

Pfc. Ethan Hoaldridge
U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC, CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii – Millions of dollars worth of construction projects are coming soon to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific as part of an ongoing process to repair and eventually replace what used to be a World War II hospital.

Many of the buildings currently being used by MarForPac were built in the 1940s and now have termite problems, asbestos, structural weaknesses or foundation problems, according to Edmund Urabe, a general engineer for Marine Corps Bases Hawaii facilities.

The process is divided into stages. First, construction crews are repairing older buildings for current and near-future missions. Eventually, the headquarters building will be demolished, making way for a whole new facility, according to Urabe.

Most recently, a new medical and dental clinic was completed as part of the first phase, which was just the start of many facility improvements to the base.

The former clinic is scheduled for demolition at the end of December. Once that is completed a \$6.2 million contract will begin the construction of a new federal fire station.

The current fire station was built after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11, 2001, as a temporary fix to meet immediate antiterrorism and force protection requirements. However, the building does not meet the needs of the fire department.

The garage's ceiling does not provide the necessary clearance for the newer fire trucks. The new, permanent facility will be specifically tailored to house all staff and fire trucks, as well as all necessary office space.

Other immediate changes around the base include demolition of older, wooden buildings behind the main headquarters building. The buildings will be demolished along with the bases' only gas station and a pedestrian bridge used to access remote parking lots.

After much planning and approval processes, the old buildings are being demolished or repaired, and new facilities are being erected. San Construction of Hawaii was recently awarded the \$1.4 million contract to demolish these structures.

“We're in an old hospital built in the 1940s that became an administrative building,” said Urabe. “In the next year, the appearance of

Camp Smith will be much different, with nice new things and less buildings.

“Our ultimate goal – the master plan – is to build a new headquarters facility, have a new (Marine Corps Community Services) building, and many other new constructions to replace “We're in an old hospital built in the 1940s that became an administrative building,” said Urabe. “In the next year, the appearance of



Pfc. Ethan Hoaldridge

Millions of dollars worth of construction projects are coming soon to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific as part of an ongoing process to repair and eventually replace what used to be a World War II hospital. The process is divided into stages. First, construction crews are repairing older buildings for current and near-future missions. Eventually, the headquarters building will be demolished, making way for a new facility, according to Edmund Urabe, a general engineer for Marine Corps Bases Hawaii facilities.

Camp Smith will be much different, with nice new things and less buildings.

In addition to the headquarters building, the construction of a new bachelor enlisted barracks is scheduled to begin in 2009. There are also plans for a new gas station, base gym, and more parking.

“The whole process of getting construction projects approved is long and tedious,” said Urabe, “but, finally, the plans are going through, contractors are bidding for contracts, and the funding is being provided.”

MEDAL OF HONOR, from A-1

his body to smother an exploding Mills Bomb let loose by a raging insurgent whom Dunham and two other Marines tried to subdue.

The explosion dazed and wounded Lance Cpl. William Hampton and Pfc. Kelly Miller. The insurgent stood up after the blast and was immediately killed by Marine small-arms fire.

“By giving his own life, Cpl. Dunham saved the lives of two of his men and showed the world what it means to be a Marine,” said Bush.

Dunham lay face down with a shard the size of a dress-shirt button lodged in his head. The hard, molded mesh that was his Kevlar helmet was now scattered yards around into clods and shredded fabric. Dunham never regained consciousness and died eight days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., with his mother and father at his bedside.

Dunham’s commanding officers from 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, investigated his actions and nominated him for the Medal of Honor. After two years and seven months making its way to the White House, the nomination now has the necessary approval from the president. The president will present the medal

and citation at a date to be determined.

Hoping the president would make the Medal of Honor announcement on their son’s birthday, Dan and Debra Dunham drove to Quantico from their home in Scio, N.Y. Dunham is buried in Scio.

“The public now knows what Jason did,” said Deb. “We still have a loss, but the gift that Jason gave helps us go on.

“The good part is that we get to make new memories and bring new people into the family; the bad news is there will be no new memories with Jason.”

The president acknowledged Dan and Deb sitting in the front row. The parents held each other close as the audience gave a resounding applause.

“We took (the applause) as a thank you for us, but it was for Jason,” Deb said. “At that point, Dan and I were missing Jason a lot.”

Addressing Dunham’s parents, Bush said, “We remember that the Marine who so freely gave his life was your beloved son. We ask a loving God to comfort you for a loss that can never be replaced.

“As long as we have Marines like Cpl. Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty”

Before Dunham, the last

Marine actions to earn the medal happened May 8, 1970, in Vietnam, according to Marine Corps History Division records. A Medal of Honor citation details Lance Cpl. Miguel Keith’s machine-gun charge that inspired a platoon facing nearly overwhelming odds: Wounded, Keith ran into fire-swept terrain. Wounded again by a grenade, he still attacked, taking out enemies in the forward rush. Keith fought until mortally wounded; his platoon came out on top despite being heavily outnumbered.

The last Marine to receive the Medal of Honor was Maj. Gen. James L. Day, who distinguished himself as a corporal in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. On Jan. 20, 1998, more than half a century later, President Bill Clinton presented the medal to Day, who passed away that year.

Since the Long War began, the president presented one Medal of Honor April 4, 2003, during Operation Iraqi Freedom posthumously to Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith who earned the medal for organizing a defense that held off a company-sized attack on more than 100 vulnerable coalition soldiers. In the defense, Smith manned a 50-caliber machine-gun in an exposed position until he was mortally wounded.

MYTH, from A-2

response time, driving performance was significantly impacted even with hands-free phones. These two studies lend further proof of the dangers of drivers being distracted by cell phones that are either handheld or hands-free.

8) What are the risks inherent with night driving?

Many studies show that night driving is more risky in terms of crash involvement than day driving when normalized by the distance traveled. This can be attributed to the greater use of alcohol at night, the effects of fatigue being more prominent, and the risks associated with reduced visibility. The study by M.D. Keall, The Contribution of Alcohol to Nighttime Crash Risk and Other Risks of Night Driving, indicate the overall effect of alcohol was shown to contribute almost 50 percent of weekend nighttime risk for drivers younger than 40, but mostly for lower-volume roads. High-volume roads tend to be avoided by drinking drivers. Excluding the risk associated with drinking and driving, the risk of night driving tends to decrease with age. Relative to day or night, roads that are illuminated at night are less risky than those that are not illuminated.

9) How do we get service members to buckle up?

The problem of getting service members to buckle up is a constant challenge. Getting Americans to buckle up: The Efficacy of State Seat Belt Laws by D.J. Houston et al., studied seat-belt use rates over the period 1991 to 2001. This study determined that states with seat-belt laws are associated with an average 9.1 percent higher use rates and that the enforcement provisions are critical to seat-belt usage. Current median fine of \$25 was associated with an additional 3.8 percent increase in seat belt use. The study recommended larger fines of \$50 to be

more effective. The greater the fine or penalty for seat-belt violation, accompanied by enforcement, the greater the compliance.

10) Are car drivers holding a motorcycle license less responsible for motorcycle-car crash occurrence?

The study by D. Maganuzzo, with the same title as this question, determined that car drivers who also hold a motorcycle license are less likely to be responsible for crashes involving motorcycles and cars. He attributes this phenomenon to the fact that these car drivers have acquired the ability from their own motorcycle knowledge and experience to predict motorcycle maneuvers and avoid or induce the motorcycle-car crash occurrence.

11) What factor does speed play in vehicle crashes?

Vehicle speed plays a critical factor in road safety. Vehicle speed not only affects the severity of injury to the occupants in a crash, it also plays a factor in the rates of vehicle crashes. Driving speed and the risk of road crashes: A Review, by L. Aarts et al., determined that crash rates increase faster with an increase in speed on minor roads than they do on major roads. She conclusively noted that a vehicle that moved much faster than other traffic around it had a higher crash rate. The larger the differences in speed between vehicles results in a higher crash rate. Additionally, lane width, junction density, and traffic flow were all found to interact with the speed-to-crash rate correlation.

Many of these current scientific studies either support or debunk our ideas about safety. The challenge for all of us is how to incorporate the latest studies and best practices that affect the safety of our military and civilian personnel in our safety policies, training and education process.